

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 535
By Byrd

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Hubie Smith
and the 1995-1996 Bartlett High School boys'
basketball team on an outstanding season.

WHEREAS, the great 1995-1996 Bartlett High School boys' basketball team, with an exemplary work ethic, exceptional skill and strong determination, has firmly carved a permanent spot of honor for themselves in the athletic history of their fine school by reaching the substate round of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AAA Tournament, thus bringing an extraordinary sense of excitement to the school and community; and

WHEREAS, despite tough competition, Bartlett won the prestigious Brother-Bartlett Stagecoach Shootout in classic style, beating Valley View, Arkansas High School 91-55, Memphis Overton 83-80 and Houston County 74-47; and

WHEREAS, the Panthers pounced on regular season District 14-AAA competition and came away victorious, winning that coveted title with an unblemished 14-0 record; and

WHEREAS, they overcame their next hurdle, District 14-AAA Tournament foes, by defeating Millington 84-61, Covington 75-54 and Munford 82-81 to add that championship trophy to their list of accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Bartlett then impressively bested Region 7-AAA opponents Hardin County 85-68, traditional power Memphis Bolton 73-68 and revenge-minded Munford 76-58, to reach the substate round; and

WHEREAS, this tremendously talented team compiled an excellent 31-4 overall record, an enviable winning percentage of .886; and

WHEREAS, they were ranked number 6 in the final state poll, a ranking that placed them clearly among the elite basketball teams; and

WHEREAS, the authoritative final poll of the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* accurately selected Bartlett as the number one team in Shelby County, a particularly noteworthy achievement because of the traditional strength of area basketball teams; and

WHEREAS, the Panthers also set a school record for most consecutive victories at 23; and

WHEREAS, Coach Hubie Smith and his capable assistant coaches, John Herringbone, Greg Rubio and Steve Sullivan, are highly regarded by their peers and have done a good job of making critical decisions and expertly blending the natural talent of the team into championship caliber; and

WHEREAS, the team leaders were: junior sharpshooter Rick Houston, who was chosen Tennessee Sportswriters All-State, All-Best of the Preps, All-Region 7-AAA Tournament, District 14-AAA Tournament Most Valuable Player, first team regular season All-District 14-AAA, All-Brother Bartlett Stagecoach Shootout and All-Zizzer Classic Tournament; junior jumper Amory Sanders, honored as the Region 7-AAA Tournament Most Valuable Player, All-District 14-AAA Tournament, first team regular season All-District 14-AAA and All-Brother Bartlett Stagecoach Shootout; junior Kevin Dees, an All-

Region 7-AAA Tournament, All-District 14-AAA Tournament and third team regular season All-District 14-AAA honoree, who came on strong in tournament play; junior Jimmy Longo, an All-District 14-AAA Tournament and Honorable Mention regular season All-District 14-AAA selection; and Adam Baldrige, who was honored as All-Brother Bartlett Stagecoach Shootout; and

WHEREAS, the other players: seniors Chris Lanning, who served as their inspirational team captain, and Paul Cheek; juniors Stuart Boyd and Nathan Isaac and sophomores John Oswalt and Chris Scobey, have made a significant contribution to the success of the squad; and

WHEREAS, Principal Tate Thomas has been very supportive; and

WHEREAS, the hard-working manager was Chris Longo; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize and commend this team which is a source of tremendous pride to their school and community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Hubie Smith and the 1995-1996 Bartlett High School boys' basketball team and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.

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